The Jewish Gaily

FORWARD

SAN FRANCISCO

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV 290 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-2262

שער זהב

TISHREI - HESHVAN 5763

OCTOBER 2002

Social Action Connection

By Susan Lubeck, Co-Chair

Connect with Sha'ar Zahav and the broader community through social action this year. We have put together an array of opportunities — for service, justice, spirituality, education and dialogue — that will come to life with your participation. Check out our Social Action program, which is enclosed in this edition of the *Forward*, and fill out the form to indicate your interest.

Though many of us engage in social action outside of Sha'ar Zahav, we think it can strengthen us to increase our participation as a community. Participation goals:

- Six people agree to co-organize an event or events
- Fifteen people pledge themselves as core participants for one or more activities
- Twenty-five people pledge time, some number of hours monthly, to tikkun olam
- Forty people sign the Call Me list

A focus for this year is gender and sexual freedom. Plan to join us for these upcoming events:

- October 16, evening: Join us at Most Holy Redeemer in the Castro to eat with homeless people, with special outreach to lesbian, gay, bi and trans youth. This is a monthly service commitment, and we are seeking a few Sha'ar Zahavniks to commit to regular attendance. Children welcome. Contact Michael Schaffer or Craig Persiko (craig@redcottage.com).
- October 18 and 19: Domestic Violence Shabbaton (see box below).
- November 20, 7 9 pm: Adult Education is organizing a panel on being Jewish and transgender. More information to follow.

We encourage you to inform yourself about, and act on, issues in the policy realm that affect LGBT people and our communities. A good source of information: California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE), www.calcape.org. As of this writing, key bills on the governor's desk were AB 1080, requiring businesses with state contracts to offer comparable benefits to employees' domestic partners and spouses, and AB 2651, prohibiting discrimination against LGBT youth and foster parents in the foster care system. If the governor has not signed these bills, encourage him to do so by calling 415/703-2218 or 916/445-1455, or emailing governor@governor.ca.gov.

Domestic Violence Shabbaton

Violence between intimate partners is shockingly common, affecting straight and LGBT relationships at equal rates. Friends and family members who are aware of an abusive relationship often struggle to do the right thing and, having done it, sometimes meet with frustration and failure. During October, Domestic Violence Awareness month, CSZ will join congregations around the Bay Area in focusing on intimate partner violence from a particularly Jewish point of view. Please join us for Shabbat services on Friday evening, October 18 and Saturday morning, October 19. Our Shabbat drashes will focus on safe and effective ways to help those moving through this difficult experience. Representatives from Communities United Against Violence will answer questions and bring us information about local resources. For more information, contact Marianne Balin (mbalin@aol.com or 510/338-3890).

New Time for Friday Night Services

Starting October 4th, for a six month trial period, all Friday night services at CSZ will start at 7:30 pm.

In Search of Peace and Security: The Reform Movement's National Teach-in on Israel

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel and the Israel Committee
Sunday, October 6, 12 – 3 pm

As Israel's partners in faith and in fate, we must do what we can to strengthen Israel at this time of unprecedented need. —from a Central Conference of American Rabbis Resolution, May 2002

On October 6, from 12-3 pm, Sha'ar Zahav will join with more than 200 congregations around North America for a day of learning and dialogue about the plurality of views and visions that American Jews have toward Israel.

As the violence rages, as the terror continues and as casualties mount on both sides, North American Jews are both deeply concerned about Israel's plight and perplexed by the complicated and seemingly insoluble problems that Israel faces. Nonetheless, the Reform Movement, committed to the Jewish people and dedicated to Israel's well-being, looks to the future and maintains the belief that a peaceful and just resolution to this conflict can be found.

The teach-in is a project of "Seeking Peace, Pursuing Justice," a program of the UAHC, dedicated to educating the Reform Movement about the issues Israel faces in the pursuit of peace, security and social justice.

Bring your own brown bag lunch; drinks and dessert provided. Co-sponsored by the Israel Committee and the Adult Education Committee.

Free for members and nonmembers.

From The Rabbi

A Legend from the Wise Men of Chelm

By Rabbi Camille Shira Angel



It is told that the road approaching the city of Chelm had a dangerous precipice. On dark nights, people would misjudge their steps and fall off the cliff. Even during the day,

vehicles would slip off the steep side of the hill. It was a source of great concern to the Chelmites who sought a solution to the problem. They deliberated for seven days and seven nights until they came up with the idea that the thing to do was to build a hospital at the bottom of the hill.

Aren't we in some ways like the legendary "wise men" of Chelm?

How often it seems easier to build a hospital than fix a slope. Treat the symptoms and ignore the root cause. With the Days of Awe, the Yamim Noraim behind us, have we been able to bring our insights and impetus for change into action? Or have our best intentions faded into the background as we go about our old ways? Have we settled for the path of least resistance or are we engaged in the challenge of changing our way? Are we addressing our core concerns in living well, or are we working in hospitals at the bottom of hills?

I hope that as you plan your year and set your calendar, you will consult our Jewish Gaily Forward and our Adult Education brochure for ways to grow and develop your Jewish self, whether it is through deepening your level of appreciation of Jewish history or the Siddur, or making your way through the weekly Torah portion on Shabbat morning. There are amazing opportunities to roll up your sleeves and get yourself involved in something you care about and feel passionate about doing. We need you here, bringing your unique gifts to this exciting

I am inspired as I witness all around me renewed commitment to serious Jewish study, to serious social action and to seriously having fun, celebrating Jewish identity in an inclusive, eclectic and VERY HIP place. In this new year, 5763, won't you join us at Sha'ar Zahav, where the spirit of renewal is palpable.



GLBT Runaway and Throwaway Youth Need Foster Parents

After 18 years in operation in the Los Angeles area, GLASS (Gay & Lesbian Adolescent Social Services) is expanding into San Francisco and the Bay Area. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav joins with the Department of Children's and Family Services in welcoming GLASS programs to our community To assist GLASS in its outreach to LGBT faith communities, CSZ has invited Dr. Martin McCombs to speak to the congregation about GLASS's work and about becoming foster parents for youth in the foster care system. GLASS is a California-licensed foster care agency providing foster parent certification and training and 24-hour professional social work services to foster care families. Dr. McCombs will be at services in October (dates to be announced) to speak during announcements and to meet with interested parties. You may reach him directly at 415/643-1212, extension 402.



Celebrate with Kadimah on the Bimah

Kadimah-Led Services Saturday, October 26, 10 am

Twice a year on Saturday mornings something truly extraordinary happens in our sanctuary. Some 45 students of Torah between the ages of 5 and 18 lead the congregation in an inspirational, spirit-filled Shabbat morning service. We call it "Kadimah-led Services."

When we say "L'dor vador," "from generation to generation," we generally presume a transmission of tradition that flows from eldest to youngest. But, at their best, our educational institutions send that learning the other way as well. Our children have as much to teach us about Torah as we do them. They breathe new life into our ancient and not so ancient words as they sing old songs with new voices, read cherished texts with new meaning and engage our tradition with new ideas. This is more than just an opportunity for parents to kvell, this is a chance for all of us to embrace the newness of this day and taste the sweetness of the future.

Please support our students in their practice of Torah, as they share their learning with our community.

Members' Yarhzeits

- Rabbi Ben Marcus
- Jeffrey Miller
- 7 Duane Kearns Puryear
- 13 Clint Bigglestone
- 18 Henry Mautner
- 24 Glenn Murray Miller
- 29 Michael Mohr



THE ISRAEL COMMITTEE

Deepening our community's connection to the people, culture, history and land of Israel

Congregational Trip to Israel in the Works

Last month's column featured an intimate look at one CSZ member's recent trip to Israel and showed that when it comes to the Israel Committee's mission — to deepen our community's connection to the people, culture, history and land of Israel — not much can compare to actually being there. We've been to Israel before as a community: Sha'ar Zahav took congregational trips to Israel in the spring of 1993 and again in the spring of 1996, each time with more than twenty members participating. Each trip was an enjoyable and enriching experience that helped our members grow closer to one another, to their Jewish heritage and to the State of Israel.

It's been almost seven years since the last CSZ trip, and as Jewish life runs in seven year cycles, the time might be right to pack our bags and go again. The Israel Committee would like to organize a trip for sometime in 2003, so we're soliciting your interest now. Israel's weather is divine in May and June, making a post-Passover visit ideal, but other times could work too. It's not too early to pin down firm dates and a minimum number of confirmed participants. So let us know what your between) by contacting smazer@ during the month of October.

... But since we have some time before our flight, we also want to know what kinds of Israel-related programming you're interested in right here at home. In the past we've featured guest speakers, discussions, classes, films and social events, on the topics of Israeli social issues, U.S.-Israeli relations, politics and the Arab/Israeli conflict, religion and religious movements, history of the State of Israel, and modern Israeli culture. What would you like to see, do, create or participate in? The Israel Committee needs your ideas and energy, and we encourage you to get involved.

Until next time, l'hitra'ot (see you soon) and l'hishtamai-ya (looking forward to hearing from you).

The next Israel Committee meeting will be Thursday, October 17 at 6:30 pm. For more information about the Israel Committee, please contact co-chairs Steve Mazer (smazer@attglobal.net) or Miki Goralsky (Goralsky@aol.com).

interest is (fully committed, just thinking about it or anything in attglobal.net or Goralsky@aol.com

October Anniversaries

- 1 Brian Ellis and Steve Farmer
- 5 Avi Goldberg and Will Garcia
- 12 Alex Ingersoll and David Stein
- 20 Felicia Park-Rogers and Rachel Timoner
- 20 Hilary Zaid and Lauren Augusta
- 21 Eileen Levy and Trudy Fulton-Smith
- 22 Steven Gaynes and

Richard Bolingbroter

28 Bill Goldstein and Chris Archuleta

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Ezra Cattan Brian Klein Evan Kaminsky Terrett Drake

Barbara Frediani

Rachael Jablo

Lissette Alfonso

Abigail Weissman

Howard Goldin

Serra Hagedorn and Evan Puckett

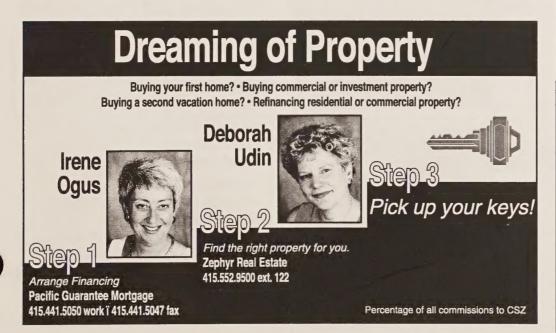
Rita Losch

Theodore Goldstein

Jonathan Crosby and Susan Belau Sion Issacs

Paul Fishman and Michael Kurokawa

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.





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Members of the congregation receive the Forward as part of their membership. Nonmembers can receive a Forward subscription for \$36/year.

Note that articles reflect the opinions of their author and not necessarily those of the congregation or its committees.

Members of the Newsletter Committee

- Chair and Editorial Coordinator: Karen Schiller
- Editing/Proofreading/Layout: Judith Cohen, Marjorie Hilsenrad, Rose Katz, Batya Kalis
- Advertising: Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net)
- Design and Layout: Caryn Leschen, Aunt Violet Productions 415/282-0346
- Printing: Genesis Printing & Graphics
- Distribution: Mail It Right

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words. plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Shaiar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California, 94103, marked: Attention Forward Advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.



October 2002, Volume 26, Issue #2



Adult Education

Poetry, Prose and Midrash: A Writing Workshop on Genesis Taught by Dan Bellm Co-Sponsored with Lehrhaus Judaica Tuesdays, October 1- November 19, 7 - 9 pm

This class is for writers at all levels of experience who are interested in combining weekly Torah study with their own creative expression through poetry and/or prose. The class will focus on the practice of developing and writing one's own midrashim — commentaries and legends - in response to the weekly cycle of Torah readings. In eight weeks, students will work with the first eight portions of Genesis: Bereishit through Vayishlach. Each session will combine Torah discus-

Easy Hebrew Calligraphy Taught by Jeanette Nichols and Barbara Cymrot

Thursdays, October 10, 17 and 24 6:30 - 8 pm

Join the Art Shabbaton and Adult Education Committees for this fun. creative three-session workshop led by Jeanette Nichols and Barbara Cymrot. Learn how to write the Hebrew alef-bet artistically and use it decoratively. We will be creating greeting cards and a variety of other pieces of artwork using Hebrew calligraphy. No artistic ability or knowledge of Hebrew is necessary! This will be a great time for anyone 12 years and older who wants to create with the beauty of the Hebrew alphabet. For more information and to register, please contact Melanie Kushnir at (415/861-6932, ext. 305, or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org.)

Members: \$10 materials cost Nonmembers: \$30 + \$10 materials cost

sion, in-class writing exercises and looking at examples of how other poets and writers have responded to these Biblical texts. Students will be encouraged to work on poems, stories or other pieces between sessions, and to keep a Torah study journal. Excellent for first-timers and for students who have taken Dan Bellm's class on Exodus. Register through Lehrhaus Judaica (510/845-6420).

Members: \$80 Nonmembers: \$100

Prayerbook Hebrew I Taught by Liat Barnea

Tuesdays, October 1 - December 17 6:30 - 8 pm

There is little that matches the power and beauty of Jews gathered together in prayer. When we recite the Sh'ma, the Aleinu and the Kaddish, we merge with Jews throughout time who have recited the same words. This fall, join fellow CSZers for Prayerbook Hebrew I. We will be learning the basics of reading, writing and speaking Hebrew. This 12-session class will be taught by Liat Barnea, who has taught Hebrew at UC Berkeley and at other synagogues in the Bay Area. This is a great chance to be able to decode the siddur before Chanukkah! To register or for more information, please contact Melanie Kushnir (415/861-6932 ext. 305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).

Members: \$75 + cost of textbook Nonmembers: \$125 + cost of textbook

Beit Midrash

Co-Chaired by Laura Lowe, Louisa Stone and Michael Chertok First Monday of the month, beginning October 7th Members only 7 pm

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's Beit Midrash (House of Study) is a lay-led monthly meeting of congregants interested in Jewish learning. The Beit Midrash features guest speakers, Jewish texts and learning together in a more formal setting. Our Beit Midrash relies heavily on chavruta study study with a friend. We study a variety of topics pertaining to Jewish life. For more information on the Beit Midrash.

please contact Melanie Kushnir (415/861-6932 305 ext. mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).

- Upcoming topics are:
 October 7: Forgiveness Carrying it Beyond the High Holidays
- · November 4: Kashrut and Food Rituals, with a special potluck supper
- December 2: Keeping Jewish Spirituality During Christmas

EDUCATION—cont'd on page 5

Journeys to Judaism – An Exploration of Conversion at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Moderated by Sue Bojdak October 23, 7 – 9 pm

"Wherever you go, I shall go... Your people shall be my people. And your God, my God." [The Book of Ruth 1:16] What does it take to leave your native people and cast your lot with another? Jews by choice and their partners, Jewish and not, will share their answers in our panel discussion on Jewish conversion. Learn about the nuts and bolts of the conversion process as well as how people resolve questions of ethnicity, family loyalty, spiritual practice and much more. For more information, please contact Melanie

Members and Nonmembers: Free

mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).

Kushnir (415/861-6932 ext. 305 or

Oneg and Flower Sponsorship

- * 8/10 Oneg by Jack and Jayne Goralsky in honor of the naming of Leah Minnie Goralsky Cohen.
- * 8/16 Flowers by Jeff Sherman in honor of his parents
- * 8/16 Oneg by Keith Barton and Steven Rosenberg in honor of the 20th anniversary of their meeting at CSZ
- * 8/23 Flowers by Debbie Levy in honor of Josh's Bar Mitzvah
- *8/23 Oneg by Ilana Drummond and Sharon Dulberg in honor of their aufruf.
- *8/30 Flowers by Ilana Drummond and Sharon Dulberg in honor of their marriage.
- * 8/30 Oneg by **Prudence Carter** in memory of Sheryl Nan Brooks.



Pines ystedim Umishpeciah

Children and Family Corner

Back to School Night

Monday, October 7, 7 − 8:30 pm

Want to know who your kids' teachers are and what's on the agenda for this year of Kadimah? Come to Back to School Night and have all of your questions answered. Learn about new curriculum initiatives. Meet with your children's teacher(s). Share your ideas for the coming year. Schmooze with other parents. RSVP for childcare by Wednesday, October 2.

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Kadimah-led Services are October 26 at 10am

Baby Chavurah

Sunday, October 13, 10 am - noon

Bring those under twos out to play, sing and commune with like-minded babes and their parents. October's Baby Brunch will be at Sha'ar Zahav. Please bring your baby and a dish to pass. Older siblings are welcome, as are nonmembers.

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, September 28, 10:30 am – noon

A new season of Tot Shabbat is beginning. Bring your 2-5 year olds for Shabbat singing, prayer, storytelling, crafts and family Jewish fun with Sandra Menachem, Early Childhood Education Specialist. Tot Shabbat meets the last Saturday of the month.

Contact Sue Bojdak,
Director of Family and Children's Education
(415/861-6932 ext. 302)
or educator@shaarzahav.org
for more information about any of these
programs or to RSVP.

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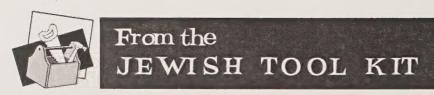


Call David Gellman 415-621-5600

October 2002 - Tishrei/Heshvan 5763

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED. ES
FRIDAY OCTOBER 18, 7:30 pm Home of Ida Kuluk and Susan Spott 4042 Maple Avenue, Oakland 510/530-4637		T pm Poetry & Midrash 6:30 pm Prayerbook Hebrew 8 2 Heshvan	• 4 pm Kadim
12 pm Israel Teach-In 7 Hesbugn	 7 pm Beit Midrash 7 pm Back to School Night 	• 7 pm Poetry & Midrash • 6:30 pm Prayerbook Hebrew	 4 pm Kadima 6:30 pm Building Meeting 7 pm JGF Editi
10 am Baby Chavurah 7 pm JGF Layout 14 Heshvan	14 8 Heshvan 21 15 Heshvan	 9 Heshvan 7 pm Poetry & Midrash 6:30 pm Prayerbook Hebrew 	4 pm Kadimah 5-9 pm S Ad for Home
27 21 Heshvan	• 7 pm Kesher Committee	7 pm Poetry & Midrash 6:30 pm Prayerbook Hebrew 29 23 Heshvan	• 4 pm Kadima • 7 pm Conver
		7 pm Poetry & Midrash 6:30 pm Prayerbook Hebrew	• 4 pm Kadi

CYA	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBAT
26 Tishrei	• 7 pm Introduction to Judaism	 6:30 pm Candle Lighting 7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Howard Steiermann Lyssa Friedma and Julia Becker 	 Shabbat Bereshit Gen. 1:1-6:8 29 Tishrei 9 am Torah Study 9:30 am Kadimah 10 am Shabbat Services led by Randy Weiss and Ilana Rainero de Haan
3 Heshvan	10 4 Heshvan	11 5 Heshvan	12 Shabbat Noah Gen. 6:9-11:32 6 Heshvan
Grounds	6:30 pm Va'ad Meeting 6:30 pm Easy Hebrew Calligraphy 7 pm Introduction to Judaism	 6:15 pm New Member Dinner 6:20 pm Candle Lighting 7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Jonathan Funk and Rabbi Angel 	 9 am Torah Study 9:30 am Kadimah 10 am Shabbat Services led by Ron Edelman and Beth Jaeger-Skigen
10 Heshvan	17 11 Heshvan	18 12 Heshvan	19 Shabbat Lekh Lekha Gen. 12:1-17:57 13 Heshvan
Di	 6:30 pm Israel Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Ritual Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Easy Hebrew Calligraphy 	 6:10 pm Candle Lighting 7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Sandy O'Neill East Bay Services 	 9 am Torah Study 9:30 am Kadimah 10 am Shabbat Services led by Ora Prochovnick and Julia Becker
	• 7 pm Introduction to Judaism	Domestic Violence Shabbaton	
17 Heshvan	24 18 Heshvan	25 19 Heshvan	26 Shabbat Va-Yera Gen. 18:1-22:24 20 Heshvan
Panel	6:30 pm Easy Hebrew Calligrapghy 7pm Introduction to Judaism	 6:01 pm Candle Lighting 7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel Danny Kodmur and Ilana Rainero de Haan 	 9 am Torah Study 9:30 am Kadimah 10 am Shabbat Services led by Kadimah Randy Weiss and Alan Gordon
	of the second se		• 10:30 am Tot Shabbat
24 Heshvan	31 25 Heshvan	NOVEMBER DEADLINE MO ARTICLES Please submit your articles as a Word attachment via email to: kschiller@igc.org. No late submissions will be accepted.	NDAY, OCTOBER 7, AT 5 PM ADVERTISING To place a display ad, contact Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.



Interesting and useful little tidbits about Shabbat and holidays, Hebrew language, liturgy, Jewish history and other areas of Jewish life. This month...

Shabbat at Home

Shabbat is the highlight of the Jewish week. For many of us the "main event" of Shabbat is a communal celebration, when we gather together at Sha'ar Zahav to pray and schmooze with our old friends, meet new people and strengthen our ties to our vibrant community. Traditionally, though, Shabbat celebration has been focused on the home far more than the synagogue. A more intimate setting, with family and friends around the table, can be a magical experience. This is not to say that Shabbat at home is "better" than Shabbat at shul. It's just meaningful and fun in ways that are different from a group event. As the sages said, "There are many forms of fabulous." And perhaps more importantly, we don't have to be dependent on a specific building or organization to give us a meaningful Shabbat experience; we can do it ourselves.

How? By incorporating some of the traditions and rituals that have been used for centuries into our own Shabbat celebration; by doing what we can to make Shabbat different from, and more special than, the rest of the week; and by engaging in activities conducive to that special feeling.

Some of the home rituals, like lighting candles and reciting Kiddush, are already familiar because we do them in shul. We'll delve deeper into these and other rituals in future columns. For now, here are some tips for creating the Shabbat atmosphere in your own home:

EAT Jewish law, wise and wonderful when it wants to be, states: Ein Kiddush eleh bimkom se'udah, "there can be no holiness unless there is a meal." And in fact, it is a mitzvah to eat three festive meals on Shabbat. Take out grandma's fancy china. Try out that snazzy new recipe. Many households have standard dishes that have become staples of their Shabbat meal: roasted chicken, noodle kugel, Aunt Ethel's soggy braised brussel sprouts, etc. Adopt these food traditions or make up some of your own.

LEARN Shabbat is a great time to talk Torah – and how often do we have time for that during the week? Discussing the weekly parashah, for example, is a terrific way to become more Jewishly educated and imbue Shabbat with that special feeling of connectedness to our tradition. Remember, a drash or d'var Torah (same thing, a "word" of Torah, a bit of insight or discussion about any Jewish topic), does not have to be a doctoral dissertation; it does not even have to be original. Share your thoughts, share something you've heard or learned recently, ask a question. If there are kids in the family, this is a great time to engage them about the Jewish stuff they learned in school during the week.

SING The Zohar (book of Jewish mysticism) says "there are gates in the heavens above that open only to the voice of song." Singing is a great way to celebrate the joy of Shabbat. Many traditional Shabbat z'mirot (songs) are poems written during the middle ages that celebrate the rest and glory of Shabbat. Sing those, and other songs in Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino or English that celebrate Jewish history and culture. Inexpensive little songbooks with transliterated songs and blessings for Shabbat are available at Jewish bookstores.

Lots more to come. In the meantime... Shabbat Shalom!

Comments about the Jewish Tool Kit or requests for topics to be covered can be sent to PirkeiAvot@attglobal.net.



Rabbi Angel's Recommended Reading

Gordis, Daniel. God Was Not in the Fire: The Search for a Spiritual Judaism. Touchstone Books.

Heschel, Abraham Joshua. *The Sabbath.* Noonday Press.

Sherwin, Byron L and Cohen, Seymour J.
Creating an Ethical Jewish Life:
A Practical Introduction to Classic
Teachings on How to Be a Jew.
Jewish Lights Publications.

Sonsino, Rifat.
Six Jewish Spiritual Paths:
A Rationalist Looks at Spirituality.
Jewish Lights Publications.

Syme, Daniel.
The Jewish Home:
A Guide for Jewish Living.
Union of American Hebrew
Congregations.

Shir HaShirim (The Song of Songs). In the Bible.

Parashat HaShavua (the weekly Torah portion).

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Social Action Committee Co-chair Craig Persiko presented a report from the Committee. A proposed brochure about the committee was distributed for comments. We praised Craig's and the committee's work

President Lisa Katz introduced the early services proposal. This has been an ongoing topic of discussion, with many ideas but no consensus, even within demographic groups (such as parents of young children).

Our discussion included questions about the impact of the proposed change on greeters, service leaders and staff; oneg attendance, third Friday dinners and family dinners. We were concerned that members coming from out of the city might not be able to come to a much earlier service. An earlier starting time might help facilitate the interaction of families with young children and older folks.

Concerns were expressed about the process of reaching this early services proposal. Our Friday night services are the most important thing that we do; we should not experiment lightly. Making sure that people can get home to have Shabbat with their families is not what this congregation is about. For many of us, our family are the people in the oneg room.

An alternative proposal was approved: Beginning in October, all Friday night services will begin at 7:30, and at the February Va'ad meeting we will prepare an agenda item on this subject for the Congregation's vote at the Annual Meeting. Recognizing that "nothing satisfies everyone," we concluded with gratitude for having this discussion and for listening to one another.

-cont'd on page 10

Synagogue Information -

Congregration Sha'ar Zahav 290 Dolores Street

415/861-6932(voice);415/861-6081 (fax) Programming office, 415/575-4961 Education office, 415/575-4962

- office@shaarzahav.org (email)
- http://www.shaarzahav.org (web)

CSZ Staff:

Rabbi.

Camille Shira Angel (x 301)

• rabbiangel@shaarzahav.org

Interim Administrator, James Carlson (x 308)

• jcarlson@shaarzahav.org

Interim Program Director, Melanie Kushnir (x 305)

· mkushnir@shaarzahav.org

Director of Children's and Family Education

Sue Bojdak (x 302)

· educator@shaarzahav.org

Kadimah Head Teacher, Phyllis Mintzer

Administrative Assistant, Steven Angeledes (x 304)

· sangeledes@shaarzahav.org

Rabbi's Assistant, Gabby Volodarsky (x 310)

Officers:

President, Lisa Katz (415/821-7746),

- Ilkatz1@juno.org or
- · president@shaarzahav.org

Vice President, Arthur Slepian

Vice President, Jeffrey Sherman

Treasurer, Gail Ludwig Recorder, Ray Bernstein

Va'ad (Board) Members:

David Gellman (ex officio)

Marianne Balin

Ron Edelman

Ron Edelmar

Leslie Kane

Nancy Kates

Laura Lowe

Ron Miguel

Drew Parker-Rose

Karen Schiller

Howard Steiermann

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain her or his number from the synagogue office.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav are ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Committee Chairs:

Adult Education, Ron Edelman and Joss Eldredge

Archives, open

Baby Chavurah, open

Bequests and Donations, Richard Inlander

Bikkur Cholim, open

Book Group, Mark Mackler

Building and Grounds, Beth Sousa

Bylaws, Richard Inlander

Children's Education Board, Ruthy Talansky

Cemetery, Richard Inlander

Dor Rishon Brotherhood, open

Dues, Tiela Chalmers, Laura Lowe

East Bay Chavurah, Ida Kuluk and Larry Wexler

Endowment Fund, David Stein

Finance, Gail Ludwig

Fine Arts, Barbara Cymrot

Fundraising, Arthur Slepian

Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin

Israel Committee, Michal Goralsky and Steve Mazer

Kesher/Connection, Marianne Balin and Geri Kahn

Leadership Development, Paul Cohen

Library, Bernard Schertzer

Long-Range Planning, Arthur Slepian and Claudia Bernard

Membership Outreach, Tony Harris

Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign, Deborah Udin

Music, Michael Sarid

Newsletter, Karen Schiller

· kschiller@igc.org

Outreach, Mark Gershman and Daphne Stuart

Past Presidents' Council, Diana Buchbinder

Personnel, Jeff Sherman

Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky and

Marc Wernick

Rabbi Liaison, Ora Prochovnick

Ritual, Howard Steiermann

Social Action, AJ Turpen, Craig Persiko, Susan Lubeck

Singles Chavurah, Marc Wernick

mhwernick@aol.com

Toddler/Pre-school Chavurah, open

UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin

UAHC Regional Liaison, Daniel Chesir

WCGLBJO Liaison, David Gellman

Web and I.T., Geoff Benjamin

Women's Chavurah, open

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations.



Different From All Others? Julie Hansen By Prudence Carter

"I missed being Jewish,"

are the words that new member Julie Hansen used when chatting about why she joined CSZ. Julie grew up in New York City and attended college, then graduate school, in Sarasota, Florida, obtaining a dual B.A. in Cultural Studies and English and an M.F.A. in Screenwriting. Julie worked in Los Angeles as a story editor and screenwriter and is currently writing a memoir.

Jewish Gaily Forward (JGF): What drew you to CSZ?

I was living in Los Angeles and doing work on Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah project. The goal was to videotape and preserve the testimonies and memories of every living Holocaust survivor. I started thinking about my Russian Jewish heritage that I had not thought about in years and in this rethinking I realized that I had no outlet for expression of my heritage. Actually, it was kind of scary because there were all these rituals that I did not understand.

After I relocated to San Francisco. my landlady mentioned a temple where there were gay and lesbian Jews so I decided to go to a Friday night service. After a year I worked up the courage to actually go. I met Sara Haber who made me feel really welcome. There was a "members only" bereavement group starting up which I wanted to be part of and that made the decision easy.

JGF: What spiritual parts of you are met through CSZ?

As a child I liked lighting the candles on the menorah, seeing the fire and the candles burning. Except for Passover and Chanukkah, my family ignored Judaism; mostly it was an inconvenience, involving drab clothing and rituals, principles, ideas I didn't understand. I rejected God and religion; I even got kicked out of Hebrew school. But, Judaism is unique, being a religion and a culture; you cannot reject one without rejecting

both. I want to take part in my culture. Somehow, now it's not about religion, it's about spirituality, ritual and community. The rituals bind us together; you can take them with you as go along in life. Now at CSZ I can take a few minutes and pray to God, which I wouldn't do on my own. This praying time serves a real purpose; I slow down. It's important to me. I'm sure that God appreciates it,

JGF: How did you become involved in the Kesher (Connection) Committee?

I guess I was lucky in meeting Sara Haber; I jumped into greeting before services. I like to do things with people that I like and joining the Greeter Gang was an opportunity to get to know people and tie me into the community. Then Marianne Balin from the Kesher Committee contacted me and I decided to join Kesher and see what happens.

JGF: What are your sources of energy?

Shadows, color, light; the sun inspires me to write. Also, the soundtrack to Saturday Night Fever, my new bicycle and finally having working brakes, the human brain, skyscrapers, beautiful women, feeling confident, "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" and books by Mary Karr are definitely sources of energy and inspiration for me.

JGF: What advice would you give new members?

Become involved and don't run over the parking cones.

VA'AD MEETING (continued from page 9)

Chair Howard Committee Steiermann presented the Ritual Committee's photography/videography proposal. The policy would allow people to take pictures or videos before or after Shabbat and holiday services. No photos, with or without flash, would be allowed during services. Unobtrusive videotaping would be allowed. Pictures at private events should be agreed upon by the officiant and family. We unanimously approved the proposed policy, adding that a fixed and unobtrusive video camera may be set up in the sanctuary "with the prior approval of the Ritual Committee."

Lisa Katz delivered the President's Report. All committees will now have Va'ad and Finance Committee liasons to ensure btter communication on budget and leadership issues.

Vice-President Arthur Slepian delivered the fundraising update. The Capital Campaign and Fund for the Future plan to raise \$750,000 in pledges in the next four to five months. We are asking for a significant pledge from everyone, and a three- to ten-year commitment. Participants in the Leadership Advance jump-started the project with \$110,000 in pledges.

Rabbi Angel delivered the Rabbi's Report. She encouraged leaders to visit the Beit Midrash on a Monday, find a partner and study. Under the leadership of Dev Felder Noily, Adult B'nei Mitzvah classes will continue, along with Shabbat morning Torah study. The Rabbi has also met with Sue Bojdak to strengthen the Kadimah curriculum.

Director of Children's Education Sue Bojdak reported that this year will feature increased communication with parents and additional participation in services by Kadimah students. An Israel curriculum has been developed and is expected to be approved by the CEB and implemented this year. The Hebrew curriculum is being improved, and there will be a Hebrew clinic to assist students.



Donations

Adult Education Fund

Avraham Giannini

- -in honor of Rabbi Angel.
- -in honor of Steve Mazer.
- -in honor of Garry Koenigsberg.

Chesir-Stein Music Fund

Lisa DiGirolamo and Janet Klein

-in honor of Daniel Chesir.

Children's Education Fund

Allan Berenstein

-in honor of the birth of Lindsay Brooke Robinson.

Amanda Littauer and Laura Steele

-in honor of Zoe Renee Littauer Steele.

Children's High Holiday Subsidies

Nancy Halloran and David Couch.

General Fund

Lisa Katz

- -in honor of the birth of Benjamin Park-Rogers Timoner.
- -in honor of Ari Rosenberg and Dana Katz's wedding.
- -in honor of Ilana Drummond and Sharon Dulberg's wedding.
- -in honor of Josh Levy's becoming bar mitzvah.
- -in honor of Stefan Bain's entering into the covenant.
- -in memory of Deborah Levi.
- -in memory of Al Godt.

L. Wendy Post

-in honor of Brad Post and Susan Leff.

Ethel Regan

- -in honor of Joshua Levy.
- -in honor of Deborah Levy.

Helen and Roger Birdsell

-in honor of Jim Frazin and Louisa Stone's anniversary.

Mark Mackler and Wendell Choo

-wishing a speedy recovery to George Mintzer.

Laura Lowe

- -in memory of Stanley Meyerson.
- -in memory of Myrtle Wexler.
- -in honor of George Mintzer.
- -in honor of James Carlson.

Jeri Lynn Cohen.

Karen Schiller

-in honor of the birth of Benjamin Park-Rogers Timoner.

Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman

-in memory of Richard Alpert.

Steven Gaynes

-in memory of

Andrew and Deborah Stromberg.

Sheila and Jay Gershman

-in honor of Mark's leading services.

Ami Zusman

- -in honor of the naming of Leah Minnie Gorasky Cohen.
- -in memory of Myrtle Wexler.
- -in honor of Sharon Heath's adoption of Miriam and Rose.

Dr. Michael Weissman

-in honor of Sheldon Weissman.

James Carlson

- -in memory of Myrtle Wexler.
- -in honor of Paul Cohen's birthday.
- -in memory of Michael Freeman.
- -in memory of Jeff Guasco.
- -in honor of Trudi Hauptman.

Susan Tubbesing

-in memory of Laura Bezman.

Marc Lipschutz

- -in honor of the birth of Leah Minnie Goralsky Cohen.
- -in memory of Marvin Sinkoff.
- -in memory of Victor Barnholtz.
- -in memory of Myrtle Wexler.

Randy Blaustein

- -in memory of John Bernd.
- -in memory of Edward Blaustein.
- -in memory of Joseph Blaustein.
- -in memory of Myrtle Wexler.

Stephen and Britt Thal

-in honor of the birth of Leah Minnie Goralsky Cohen.

Seth Charney

-in memory of Morris Charney.

Allan Berenstein

-in honor of Mel, Gabby, Sean and James.

Donations in honor of the High Holidays

Lonny Darwin.

Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign

Steve Weiner

-in memory of Ernest Rosenthal.

Trudi and Stephen Hauptman

-in memory of Michael Hauptman.

Rabbi Leslie Bergson

-in honor of the naming of Leah Minnie Goralsky Cohen.

Allan Berenstein

- -in memory of John Golebowski.
- -in memory of Bernard Pechter.
- -in memory of Frank Hyman.

Helen Schlossberg Cohen and Gil Cohen.

-in honor of the naming of Leah Minnie Goralsky Cohen.

Ellie Cohen, Miki Goralsky and Leah Minnie Goralsky Cohen

-in honor of Rabbi Leslie Bergson and Ron Lezell for the naming of Leah Minnie Goralsky Cohen.

Andy Fyne

-in honor of Rami Harel Kripke-Ludwig.

Social Action Fund

Alan Michels, Laureen Kim and Alapai Michels

-in honor of Josh Levy's bar mitzvah.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Allan Berenstein

- -in appreciation of Rabbi Angel.
- -in memory of Myrtle Wexler.
- -in memory of Bill Schlicter on his vahrzeit.
- -in honor of George Mintzer, with wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

Avraham Giannini

-in memory of Mary Lou Giannini.

Ilana Drummond and Sharon Dulberg

-in honor of Rabbi Angel's officiating at their wedding.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

_	
2	Mavis Eldredge
2	Sharyn Saslafsky
4	Richard Inlander
4	Mark Mackler
5	Tony Enriquez
5	Howard Steiermann
7	David Wasserman
7	Michael Zimmerman
8	James Laque
9	Mike Bromberg
9	Stephen Hauptman
10	Susan Shalit
12	Debra Chasnoff

12 Jeffrey Lilly 12 Beth Sousa 13 David Gellman 13 Richard Stanley 14 Michael Bettinger 16 Richard Meyerson 17 Tamara Abrams Steven Horowitz 18 18 Frances Stevens 19 Lisa Lubchansky 20 Donald Berger 23 Roberta Achtenberg 23 Wanderson Carlos 23 Seth Charney 24 Rachel Maclachlan 24 Jacob Wirtschafter 25 Alison Austin 25 Judith Cohen 25 Francine Frohlich 25 David Kaiser Ilana Bernstein 26 26 Clarissa Kripke 26 Sue Swigart Sanford Lowe 27 28 Yoel Kahn 29 Allan Berenstein 29 Leonie Darwin 29 Pamela Miller 30 Helen Bruno

Naches

To Marc Wernick, on the birth of his niece, Lindsay Brooke Robinson.

To Ari Rosenberg and Dana Katz on the occasion of their wedding.

To Miki Goralsky and Ellie Cohen on the naming of their daughter, Leah Minnie Goralsky Cohen.

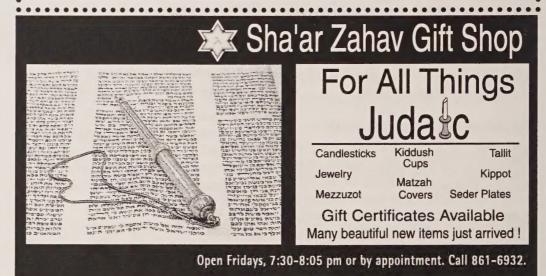
To Lisa DiGirolamo and Janet Klein on the naming of their son, Asa Eli.

To Ilana Drummond and Sharon Dulberg on the occasion of their wedding.

To Josh Levy on the occasion of his becoming bar mitzvah.

To Stefan Bain on his entry into the covenant.

To Nol Simense (staff) for being featured in San Francisco Magazine's Top 100 list as "one to watch in dance."



Condolences

Dan Alpert and Rabbi Eric Weiss, on the loss of their brother and brother-in-law, Richard Alpert.

Tiela Chalmers, on the loss of her friend, Christopher Cowan.

Tiela Chalmers, on the loss of her friend, Hershey Hirshkop Melanie Kushnir, on the loss of her grandmother, Myrtle Wexler.

Tony Enriquez, on the death of his aunt, Maria Bautista.

Eileen Levy, on the death of her uncle, Sam Wilens.

Eileen Levy, on the death of her aunt, Helen Konel.

Stephen Hauptman, on the death of his uncle, Max Hauptman.

Greer Hauptman, on the death of her grand-uncle, Max Hauptman.

Lonnie Weiss, on the death of her friend, Shirley Halverson.

Hilary Zaid, on the death of her ex-lover and dear friend, Deborah Levi.

Lauren Augusta, on the death of her friend, Deborah Levi.

Stephanie Godt, on the death of her grandfather, Al Godt.

Classifieds

PSYCHOTHERAPY: A safe place to talk about life transition, relationship turmoil, emotional upheaval, existential crises... or simple, everyday concerns. Jody Reiss, LCSW (#15289). 415/401-9482

HEBREW/TORAH TROPE INSTRUCTION:

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ALL THINGS MACINTOSH: Internet making you crazy? Mysterious freezes? Troubleshooter for hire! Improve Performance. Software Support/Tutoring/& More. References. Roslyn 510/526-1209.

